

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 14, 2018

The Honorable Ben Carson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

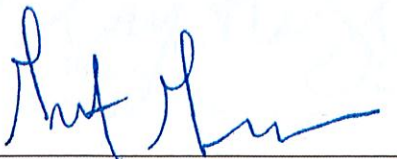
Dear Secretary Carson,

In February, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, dating back to efforts since December, which included \$28 billion in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) for communities recovering from two of the worst national disaster years on record. It has now been nearly six months since this aid package was signed into law, but the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has yet to publish a federal register notice to deploy what Congress intended as emergency aid. Once this is published, states will still be required to submit an action plan for the funds, which will be subject to approval.

Our communities continue to remain vulnerable to the summer hurricane season without being able to utilize funding for disaster mitigation. While we recognize and support efforts to ensure taxpayer accountability, other agencies who received emergency aid as part of the same supplemental appropriation have already allocated funds to actual projects.

On behalf of communities across the country which are seeking to rebuild, we cannot continue to wait expectantly for CDBG-DR funds. We urge your agency to act quickly to publish the requisite federal register notice so that critical mitigation projects may be constructed and completed. The longer we wait, the less likely it is for our communities to insulate themselves from future risk and to help provide security to constituents and recovery communities. We cannot continue to fund disasters after the fact, and urge HUD to ensure that these taxpayer dollars are able to support mitigation efforts before the next storm devastates our communities.

Sincerely,



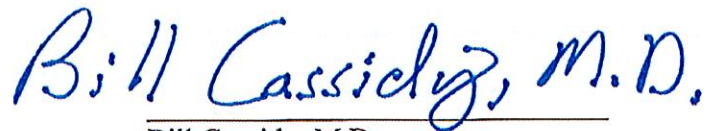
Garret Graves
United States Congressman



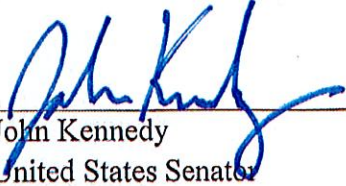
Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



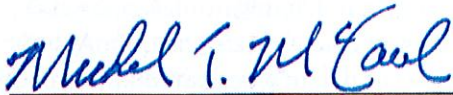
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



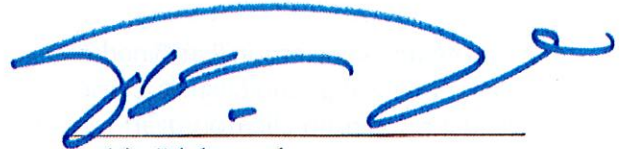
John Kennedy
United States Senator



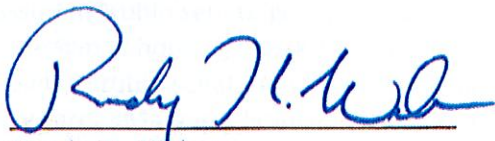
John Culberson
United States Congressman



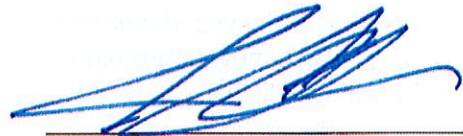
Michael T. McCaul
United States Congressman



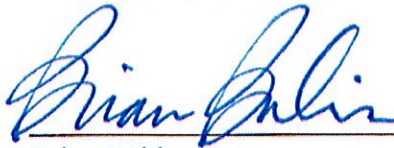
Cedric Richmond
United States Congressman




Randy K. Weber
United States Congressman



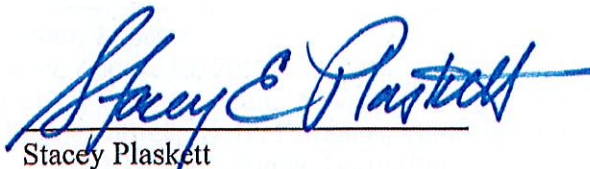
Ralph Abraham, M.D.
United States Congressman



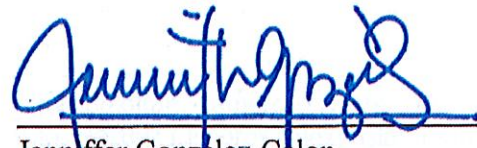
Brian Babin
United States Congressman



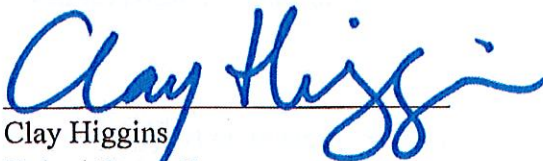
Carlos Curbelo
United States Congressman



Stacey Plaskett
United States Congresswoman



Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon
United States Congresswoman



Clay Higgins
United States Congressman



Al Lawson
United States Congressman